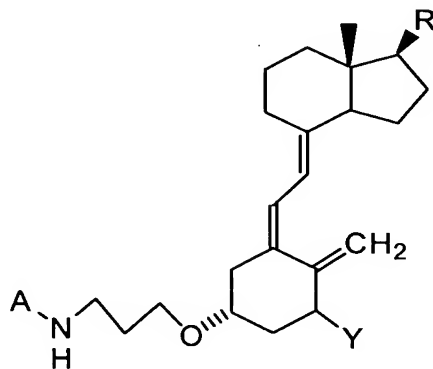


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The preparation of vitamin D compounds of formula (I) with  
a label attached to a spacer group in the 3 position is  
5 disclosed.



In the above formula (I), O represents the oxygen atom of  
an ether group; Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy; A  
10 represents a label such as biotin, digoxigenin, or another  
vitamin D group; R represents a substituted hydrocarbon  
side-group of vitamin D or a vitamin D metabolite. Also  
disclosed is a method of measuring 25-hydroxy vitamin D  
metabolite and a  $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite in a  
15 sample.